Recommendation for 8 per cent excise duty for textile sector

2570. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the working group on Textiles and Jute Industry has recommended a uniform 8 per cent excise duty for the entire textile sector for next five years as a special dispensation;

(b) If so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) Whether the total textile imports during the last fiscal year has increased substantially, but the exports were not increasing at the same rate; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Textile and Jute Industry for 10th Five Year Plan (2002—07) has recommended a number of measures to promote and develop the Indian Textile Industry for consideration of the Planning Commission. One of them is to broaden the tax net to link all states of textile production i.e. from fiber to the fabric stage by reducing the excise duty structure to a uniform level of 8 per cent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During the last fiscal year 2000-2001, the total textile exports, in value terms, registered a rise of 27.5 per cent over the previous year as against a decline of 25.2 per cent in total textile imports, in value terms, for the same period.

Development of Handlooms and Handicrafts in Nagaland

2571. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy being implemented by Government in the State of Nagaland for development of handloom and handicraft sector;

(b) whether any special policy has been taken up for development

of this sector in NER in general and particular in Nagaland State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) State-wise separate policies are not formulated and implemented in the handloom and handicraft sectors. However, for overall promotion and development of handlooms and handicrafts in the country including the State of Nagaland, a number of schemes are being implemented.

(b) and (c) At least 10% of the outlay of handicrafts and handlooms sectors is being earmarked for North Eastern States including the State of Nagaland. Certain schemes of the handloom sector have a special dispensation for the North East Sector including Nagaland. In the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsahan Yojana, the pattern of assistance for the rest of the country between Centre and the State is 50:50. However, for the North Eastern States it is 90:10. In the Handicrafts sector a project with UNDP assistance for Development of cane and bamboo is under implementation in North Eastern States including the state of Nagaland.

Revival of Azam Jahi Mill in Andhra Pradesh

2572. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government for revival of Azam Jahi Mill, Warangal in the State;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the said mill was taken by NTC during 1974 and no help has been given by NTC to the mill; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government are expected to provide a necessary financial help to the mill, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?